

INFORMATION PAPER

DAMO-SSF
18 Jun 2001

SUBJECT: FAO In-Country Training Program – El Salvador

1. **PURPOSE:** To provide a summary of the FAO in-country training program and facilities in El Salvador to assist in selection and preparation of replacement personnel. Projected in-country trainees should use the information provided to contact incumbent FAO trainees and/or FAO supervisor as early as possible for more detailed information.

2. **FACTS:**

a. Summary of Program:

(1) Tour length: 12 to 13 months.

(2) Normal Arrival/Departure Dates: December through December or June through May.

(3) Program Description: Two FAOs conduct ICT in El Salvador each year. FAOs attend the Salvadoran Army *Curso de Plana Mayor* (Staff Officer's Course) at the *Escuela de Infantería* in San Salvador. The six-month-long course is generally run twice per year: from the first week of January to the last week of June, and from the first week of July through the week before Christmas. FAOs learn El Salvador Armed Forces doctrine and how it trains its staff officers and battalion level leaders.

(a) FAOs conduct regional travel before, during and after completion of the course.

(b) Language Instruction Availability: FAOs are immersed in the language for the duration of their course. Additionally, Spanish language tutoring is available at several sites near the embassy for FAOs and family members.

(4) Prerequisites: CPT/MAJ; branch immaterial; Spanish DLPT 2/2.

b. POVs: Each FAO is authorized shipment of one POV. There are currently no restrictions on the age of the vehicle that can be imported. However, the Government of El Salvador has legislation pending that will restrict imports to vehicles no older than seven years. Contact incumbent FAO trainees and/or FAO supervisor for the latest information on vehicle importation requirements.

Due to long shipment times (approximately 2 months), FAOs should ship early or consider purchasing a used vehicle in country.

c. Household Goods: FAOs are authorized full JFTR. Incoming FAOs should coordinate with resident FAOs or the FAO supervisor for recommended items to bring as accompanied and unaccompanied baggage.

d. Housing: Government-leased housing is provided at no cost to the officer.

e. Support Facilities:

(1) Medical: The embassy has a nurse on staff and a visiting doctor for basic medical care. FAOs are also entitled to medical support through the Salvadoran Military Hospital, or can choose from a number of local doctors. Tricare Latin America is the service organizer/provider.

(2) Dependent Schooling: Most dependents attend either the American School, the International School, or the Christian Academy. All three schools provide English instruction for grades pre-K through 12. However, the Department of Defense will only pay for schooling for grades K-12. The school year for the three schools begins in August and ends in June.

(3) PX/Commissary: There is a small shoppette-type store on the embassy compound. In addition, military members can order goods through the bi-monthly commissary shipment from Charleston, SC. Local grocery stores carry a wide variety of goods but prices are generally higher than in the US and some specialty items may not be available.

(4) APO: A full service APO is available at the embassy. Normal postal regulations for size and weight apply. Oversized items ordered from AAFES can be purchased with the assistance of AAFES' Mission Support Service (MSS) at Ft. McPherson, GA. The MSS ships oversized items on military aircraft from Charleston, SC.

f. Rating Chain:

Rater: AARMA, MAJ

Senior Rater: DATT/ARMA, COL

g. Incumbent FAO/Departure Date: The ICT program is new to El Salvador with the first FAO due to arrive in December 2001. There is no incumbent FAO.

h. Address:

(1) Mail:

Rank, Name
USDAO San Salvador
Unit 3108
APO AA 34023

(2) Message: USDAO SAN SALVADOR ES

i. Phone #:

(1) USDAO: 011-503-228-2017

(2) US Embassy: 011-503-278-4444

3. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

a. Bring Advanced Course, CAS3, and CGSC materials. ICT provides a good opportunity to complete them and they serve as valuable references while attending school.

b. FAOs should bring the complete array of military uniforms. Normally, FAOs use Class B for classes, Class A for ceremonies, BDU for field exercises/TEWTS, and Dress/Mess Blue for the Marine Ball.

c. FAOs should consider bringing small gifts such as military insignia, unit t-shirts, coffee cups, and other knick-knacks.

d. Incoming FAOs should contact the Assistant Army Attaché, Major David Viens, email viensd@lycos.com as early as possible for more detailed information.

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